

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05502 100838Z

22

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /015 W

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R 100820Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5547

UNCLAS JIDDA 5502

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON FROM AMBASSADOR PORTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SA, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED U.S. VISIT SAUDI MINISER OF HEALTH

REF: (A) JIDDA 4531, (B) STATE 169332, (C) JIDDA 4982,

(D) JIDDA 5297

1. I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ORCHESTRATE A U.S. VISIT BY THE SAUDI MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR. HUSAYN ABD AL-RAZZAQ AL-JAZA'IRI, SINCE JUNE 27. HE HAS NEVER VISITED THE U.S. AND HE CONTROLS A KINGDOM-WIDE HEALTH SERVICES EXPANSION BUDGET (NEW HOSPITALS, COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, REGIONAL MEDICAL WAREHOUSES) OF OVER FIVE BILLION DOLLARS UNDER CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

2. SUCH A VISIT COULD RESULT IN A LARGE PORTION OF THIS HEALTH SERVICES EXPANSION BUDGET GOING TO U.S. FIRMS. IT IS EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT U.S. WILL BE IN INFERIOR POSITION IF AN OFFICIAL VISIT IS NOT POSSIBLE, DUE TO EXTREME PRESSURES FROM ALL OTHER COMPETING INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY COURTING HIM, PARTICULARLY U.K., GERMANY AND FRANCE.

3. I URGE YOU TO REVIEW THE REFTELS IN WHICH WE INDICATED A NUMBER OF OPTIONS FOR FUNDING HIS VISIT. THE DEPARTMENT'S REPLIES TO DATE HAVE SHOWN LITTLE IMAGINATION IN WORKING OUT A POSSIBLE SPONSOR FOR WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE A PROJECT OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S.

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4. I WISH TO OFFER HIM AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO VISIT

THE U.S. AT U.S. EXPENSE AND CERTAINLY DO NOT INTEND TO
ASK HIM TO FOOT THE BILL.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY INDICATION OF WHAT CAN BE
DONE. OUR REQUEST IS NOW A MONTH AND A HALF OLD AND WE
HAVE MADE NO PROGRESS THUS FAR.

6. BEST PERSONAL REGARDS.
PORTER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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